

NEWS RELEASE

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District
801 Anson Street
Salem, Indiana 47167
(812) 883-3006 ext. 3

Fifth Annual Southern Region Soil Health Workshop Planned for January 26

SALEM, IN -The Southern Region Soil Health Workshop on January 26, 2016 in Salem, IN will take a well-rounded look at the topic of soil health. The workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and includes a variety of expert presentations.

Speakers include Mark Anson, Doug Anson, and Ethan Anson with Anson Family Farms (Successful Seeding and Termination of Cover Crops and Manure Application with Cover Crops), Bryan Young with Purdue University (Weed Suppression with Cover Crops), Betsy Bower with Ceres Solutions (Herbicide Issues with Cover Crops Establishment) and Danielle Walker with Washington County-Purdue Extension (Using the Herbicide Classification Chart).

Washington County District Conservationist, Ruth Hackman, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service shared, "We have producers that have planted cover crops for five years in the area. During this downturn in agricultural commodity prices, producers need to look at their entire conservation system, which cover crops are a key component. Data collected is substantiating that cover crops will improve the bottom line of all farm operations in South Central Indiana. We want to prepare producers to succeed with cover crops and herbicide selection in the spring is affecting success of the cover crop."

Todd Shields, a local landowner and operator who has attended past soil health workshops, said, "It has been worth my time to learn about soil health and incorporate these practices on my operation."

This will be the fifth year for this educational event, which reflects a growing public interest in soil health management practices. Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Jim Brown explained, "We are on the edge of a great revolution in terms of thinking about soil health as a complete system for agricultural production."

Advance registration for the event is required by January 20, and can be completed by contacting the Washington County SWCD at (812) 883-3006, extension 3. The workshop will take place in Cornerstone Hall (1700 N. Jim Day Road, Salem, IN 47167). The \$10.00 workshop fee includes a light breakfast, lunch, and informational handouts. Commercial Applicator Credits and Certified Crop Advisor Credits are available at no additional cost. Private Applicator Credits are available for a \$10.00 fee. Questions about credits may be directed to Danielle Walker at (812) 883-4601.

The workshop is organized by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), Purdue Extension, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), and the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project. The SWCD and partners are equal opportunity providers and accommodations for

those who need them will be provided; simply contact the SWCD at (812) 883-3704 ext. 3 at least 10 days prior to the event.

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